

Hepatitis Resources

Washington DC



HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD & TB Administration
Department of Health



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Introduction

Viral hepatitis is a major public health problem in Washington DC. Nation-wide, it is estimated that more than 1.2 million people are living with chronic hepatitis B and at least 3.2 million people are living with chronic hepatitis C. The most recent epidemiological update for the District of Columbia includes the first ever viral hepatitis surveillance data. The data shows that from 2004-2008, 11, 624 cases of chronic hepatitis C infection and 3, 530 cases of chronic hepatitis B were reported. Efforts are currently underway to scale up prevention, harm reduction, screening, and training of the providers that serve at risk populations.

This directory provides information about the following services:

- where to get vaccinated for hepatitis A and hepatitis B
- where testing is available for hepatitis

Included in this guide is basic information about viral hepatitis and links to important resources throughout Washington DC. The guide also includes a list of valuable internet websites with important information on many topics related to viral hepatitis.

We look forward to adding and updating more services with your help in the future. In the meantime, we hope that this directory will be able to provide a good starting point.

Understanding Viral Hepatitis

The word "**hepatitis**" means inflammation of the liver and also refers to a group of viral infections that affect the liver. The most common types are Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C.

Viral hepatitis is an important public health issue:

The chart on the next page describes how Hepatitis A, B and C are transmitted, how it can be prevented and what happens if someone becomes infected. Viral hepatitis prevention information is especially important because even though viral hepatitis is preventable, each year in the US it is estimated that 43,000 people will become infected with Hepatitis B, 17,000 will become infected with Hepatitis C and 25,000 persons will become infected with Hepatitis A.

Vaccines can prevent hepatitis A and B:

Vaccination is very effective at preventing hepatitis A and B. Hepatitis A vaccination is now a standard of care for all infants over 1 year of age and vaccination for hepatitis B is given to anyone 18 years old or younger and all infants at birth. Depending on the different types of vaccine, 2-4 doses are required to provide full protection.

People who were not vaccinated as children and who are at risk for viral hepatitis should be vaccinated as soon as possible. Adults who are at risk for viral hepatitis include:

- immigrants from areas of the world with high rates of viral hepatitis
- people traveling to areas with high rates of hepatitis A or B
- injection drug users
- men who have sex with men
- people with multiple sexual partners
- people who are incarcerated
- people who received clotting factor before 1987
- household members of people living with hepatitis B
- people living with HIV
- people living with liver disease.

Screening for Viral Hepatitis

The only way to know for sure if you have been infected with hepatitis A, B or C is to be tested. People are not routinely screened for viral hepatitis so even if a person has seen a doctor he or she should not assume that testing was done. There are different tests for each type of viral hepatitis. The decision about whether to get tested depends on a person's health behaviors and other factors which are described in the chart on the next page.

Hepatitis: The Silent Disease

Hepatitis is often called the silent disease because people will often have no symptoms. The symptoms of Hepatitis A, B and C, when they occur, are similar. The symptoms include: jaundice (skin turning yellow), nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, dark urine or pale stool, loss of appetite, fatigue or joint pain. Even though the symptoms are similar, one type of hepatitis does not progress to become another type of hepatitis – for example, hepatitis A can not develop into hepatitis B.

Overview of Viral Hepatitis

Type of hepatitis	Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B	Hepatitis C
What body fluids can transmit the virus?	Feces	Blood, semen, vaginal secretions	Blood
What activities can pass the virus?	<p>Eating food prepared by an infected person who did not wash properly after going to the bathroom; Eating uncooked shellfish</p> <p>Any contact between the mouth and an infected person's feces or anus</p>	<p>Unprotected sexual intercourse</p> <p>Sharing equipment used to inject drugs</p>	<p>Sharing equipment used to inject drugs</p> <p>Unprotected sexual intercourse, but this is less common</p>
How it can be prevented?	<p>Vaccination</p> <p>Early childhood vaccination was started in xxxx.</p> <p>People over the age of xx who are at risk should be vaccinated</p>	<p>Vaccination</p> <p>Early childhood vaccination was started in 1991.</p> <p>People over the age of xx who are at risk should be vaccinated</p>	<p>Avoid sharing injection drug equipment; use a new, clean syringe every time you inject</p> <p>Use condoms consistently and correctly every time you have sex</p>
What happens if someone becomes infected?	<p>Hepatitis A is a short term illness that clears on its own within 6 months</p> <p>No specific treatment is available except rest, drinking plenty of fluids, over the counter medications to control symptoms</p>	<p>About 85% of people who become infected with hepatitis B are able to clear the virus and will not have it for life.</p> <p>About 15% develop lifelong infection and approximately 15-40% of these people will develop liver damage (cirrhosis) or liver cancer over 10-25 years.</p> <p>Treatment is available to help slow the disease</p>	<p>About 20% of people who become infected with hepatitis C are able to clear the virus and will not have it for life.</p> <p>About 80% develop lifelong infection and approximately 5-20% of these people will develop liver damage (cirrhosis) or liver cancer over 10-25 years.</p> <p>Treatment is available with a success rate of about 50%</p>

**You can access additional information on the Department of Health website
<www.doh.dc.gov/hepatitis>**

Accessing Services: Different Types of Services

VACCINATION

The medical homes listed on the following pages can provide vaccination against Hepatitis A and B for their current clients.

Agencies Providing Hepatitis Vaccinations In Washington DC

Name of Agency	Address	Phone	Operation	Vaccination Offered	Vaccination Offered to?	Vaccination	Available to this Agency?	Referral is le What Should the Client do?	Does the Agency Refer Clients or Know of Other Clinics that Offer Vaccinations?
Bread for the city	1525 7th St. NW Washington Dc 20001	202-265-2400	Monday-Thursday 9am-12pm&1-5pm.The Clinic Will Also Open On Tuesday Evenings 5-6:30pm.	Yes(A&B)	Appointment Only: Call Bread For The City To See If You Are Eligible To Be A Client	Free For Clients	Client Has To Be A Client Of The Clinic	The Client Needs To Become A Client, First	
Carl Vogel Center	1012 Fourteenth Street NW Suite 700 Washington DC 2005	202-638-0705	Monday 9:00am-8:00pm;Tuesday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm	Yes(A&B)	Walk-Ins With Insurance, Walk-Ins Without Insurance, And Clients Who Make Appointments	Does Offer Free Vaccines Often Charges On A Sliding Scale Based On Client's Income	Yes-Call To Set Up An Appointment Or Walk-Ins		
Christ House	1717 Columbia Road, NW Washington Dc 20009	205-328-1100	Open 24 Hours 7Days /Week	Yes(A&B)	Walk-Ins With Insurance, Walk-Ins Without Insurance, And Clients Who Make Appointments	Sliding Scale; Free	Yes-Call To Set Up An Appointment Or Walk-Ins	Call And Make An Appointment	
Congress Heights Community Health Center	3720 MLK Jr. Ave SE Washington Dc 20032	202-279-1800	Monday-Friday 8:15 AM-4:45 PM	Yes(A&B)	Unity Clients Only. Walk-Ins Are Not Accepted. Hepatitis Vaccines Are Provided By Appointment Only And Are Typically Scheduled The Next Day	Did Not Know But They Are Not Free	No, Only Accept Unity Clients	Unity Clients Only	

Dc Department Of Health Immunization Program	6323 Georgia Avenue, NW, Suite 305 Washington DC	202-576-7130	No Hours Listed	Yes(A&B)	Walk-Ins With Out Insurance	Free	Yes, They Can Make Referrals To The Clinic	They Send A Written Statement Of What The Client Needs To Receive	Unity Health Care Clinics Offer It, Because They Provide Them With Vaccines And Neighborhood Health Clinic
Dc Developing Familes Center-DOH Imminization Cliniv	801 17th Street, NE Washington Dc	202-398-5520	4:30pm-730pm. 2nd & 4th Tuesday Of Each Month	No					
Dimensions Health Care System	3001 Hospital Dr.Cheverly Md 20785	301-583-4000	Open 24 Hours 7Days /Week	No					
Family And Medical Counseling Service Inc	2041 MLK Jr, Ave., SE M2 Washington DC 20020	202-889-7900	M-F 9:00-5:00, Sat 9:00-2:00(Note: Plan To Began Evening Hours On Tuesday's Beginning May 18th That Will Extend To 8:00pm	Yes(A&B) And Twinrix	Those Insured Unless HIV Positive	Did Not Know Exact Cost, Depends On Insurance	Other Agencies And Providers In Dc Can Call And Make Referrals By Calling FMCS To Make An Appointment	Call And Make An Appointment	Refer Clients To Other Clinics(NIH The Phoenix Center, Georgetown GW, And Howard) For Services As Needed Depending On Individual Client Needs
Georgia Avenue Express Clinic	6323 Ave NW Washington DC 20011	Not Listed	Monday-and Tuesdays, 10am-2pm	Yes(A&B)	Offered To Both Insured And Uninsured Patients. Accept Both Appointments And Walk-ins(Served On A First Come ,First Served Basis); All Vaccines Are Given In The Travel Clinic This Is An "Immunization Only Clinic".	This Clinic Provides "Immunization Only" At No Cost	Referrals Must Be For The District residents Who Have no Health Insurance Or Are Underinsured Referrals Would Be For Vaccine Only	Referring Agency/Physician Must Provide Referrals With Vaccinations Needed	Unity Health Care Inc., Whiteman Walker Clinic, Bread For The City, La Clinica De Pueblo, SOME.

GWU Medical Faculty Associates Clinic Services: Gastroenterology And Liver Disease	22nd st Nw & I St Nw 3rd Floor Washington Dc 20037	202-741-2126	Mon-Fri; 8-5	Yes(A&B)	Appointment ONLY And Insurance Is Not Taken, Clients Pay Out of Pocket	Cost Depends On The Vaccines. Paid Out Of The Pocket, No Sliding Scale	Yes, They Can Refer Them To The Travel Clinic	Call Travel Clinic To Make An Appointment	
Howard University Hospital	2041 Georgie Ave Washington DC 20060	202-865-6100	Open 24 Hours 7Days /Week	Yes	Appointment Only With Insurance	Based On The Clients Insurance Coverage	Yes But Client needs Insurance And Needs To Make An Appointment	Make And Appointment Please Call 202-865-6625 (Division Of Infectious disease); Physician Referral Service; 202-595-3200; Admissions:202-865-1201	
La Clinica Del Pueblo	2831 15th street NW Washington Dc 20009	202-462-4788	M-F 8:30-5:00, Wednesday 8:3- to 9:00 Om	Yes(A&B)	Appointment Only: Insurances Accepted Included: DC Medicaid, Chartered Health Plan, Health Right Inc., Medicare Unison Health Plan. Both Insured And Uninsured Clients Can Receive Vaccines But Priority Is Given To Those As Higher Risk	Free. If Client Has Insurance, Then The Insurance Covers The Cost Otherwise the Vaccine Is Free	No. We Purchase Vaccines Based On The Number Of Clients We Have So We Usually Don't Have And Left Over For People Who Are Not Clients Of Out Clinic.	The Client Needs To Become A Client, First	
RAP	1949 4t St N.E Washington Dc 20002	202-462-7500	Open 24 Hours 7Days /Week	No					
So Others Might Eat	60 'O' Street NW Washington Dc 20001	202-797-8806	M-F 8:00am-4:00pm	Yes(A&B)	Walk-Ins With Insurance.	Free	Yes-Call To Set Up An Appointment Or Walk-In		

United Medical Center	1310 Southern Ave SE Washington Dc 20032	202-574-6141	Open 24 Hours 7Days /Week	No					
Unity HealthCare Re-Entry program	1604 Morris Road SE.Washington Dc 20020	202-715-1601	M-F 8:00am-4:00pm	Yes(A&B) And Twinrix	Prefer Appointment, Walk-In Accepted	Free For Clients			
Unity:Phoenix Center	1900 Massachusetts Ave., Se Washington Dc., 20009	202-548-7620	Yes(A&B) and Twinrix	Do Not Turn Away Any Clients And Will Accept All Regardless Of Insurance And/Or Type	Sliding Scale Based On Clients	Will Not Turn Away Any Clients	The Health Professional Could Either Call To Make An Appointment For The Client Or Provide Documentation The Client Needs The Vaccine		
Upper Cardozo	3020 14th St Nw Washington Dc 20009	202-745-4300	M-F 8:30am 5:00pm Extended Hours M&W 5:00pm-7:3-pm Saturday 8:00 am-1:30pm	Unknown					

You can access additional information on the Department of Health website
<www.doh.dc.gov/hepatitis>

Accessing Services: Different Types of Services

SCREENING

The medical homes listed on the following pages can provide screening for their current clients to help a person learn whether they are infected with viral hepatitis.

Agencies Providing Hepatitis Screening in Washington DC

Name of Organization	Type of Hep Screening	How is it offered	Associated Fee	Next Steps/ Protocol
Howard University Hospital	Hep C	Appointment with Insurance	Based on Clients eligibility	Client schedules an appointment with primary physician.
La Clinica del Pueblo	C	Appointment Only	Based on Client's eligibility	Insurance company may require prior authorization. Primary care clients only.
Bread for the City	C	Appointment Only	Free – for Primary Care clients	Testing and subsequent services is offered to current BFC primary Care clients only.
Unity Healthcare Re-entry	C	Walk-in, Appointment	Free – for current clients	Testing and services for current clients only
United Medical Center	C	Appointment Only	Not Known	Positive patients are referred to medical providers
Dimensions Health Care System	C	Appointment Only	Not Known	Positive patients referred to appropriate medical provider
Andromeda	A, B	Walk-ins with Insurance	Based on Clients Insurance	Uninsured clients referred to Unity
SOME	A, B, C	Walk ins with Insurance	Free but agency immediately enrolls person in public insurance because this is primarily a homeless clinic	Positive Patients are referred to Phoenix Center
GWU Medical Faculty Associates	A, B, C	Appointment Only	No free services	Doctor decides based on each client
RAP	C	Appointments for	Free for current clients	Medical Provider

		current clients		referral
Congress Height Community	A, B, C	Appointments Only	Not Known	Referred to a medical provider
Unity: Phoenix Center	A, B, C	All patients	Sliding-Scale	Referred to Dr. Pistole
FMCS	A, B, C	Appointment Only	Based on clients insurance / HIV status	Referral to appropriate health care provider
Carl Vogel Center	A, B, C	Appointment Only	Sliding-Scale	Referral to appropriate health care provider
Whitman Walker Clinic –STD Clinic (Tuesdays and Thursdays 6pm)	B, C	No appointment necessary. Clients seen on first come, first serve basis but arrival before 5:30pm is recommended to ensure service.	\$10- 15	Referral to appropriate health care provider

Living with Hepatitis C

An important purpose of this guide is to provide concrete information about services available for people living with hepatitis C. If you have recently tested positive for hepatitis C, know that you are not alone. In Washington DC there are more than 11,000 people living with hepatitis C.

Know your HCV Status

The only way to know for sure if you have hepatitis C is to get tested. Some of the screening sites listed in this guide may offer antibody testing for hepatitis C. In about 20% of the cases of hepatitis C, a person's body is able to fight off the infection and clear the virus. This means, the person may test positive for antibodies but may not have lifelong infection. In order to know if you have lifelong infection (also called chronic infection) it is important to have a confirmatory test, such as an HCV viral load test.

Get Medical Care

Hepatitis C is known as a "silent epidemic" because people can live with the infection for many years without any noticeable symptoms. People with chronic hepatitis C should be monitored regularly for signs of liver disease. Even though a person may not feel sick, damage to the liver can still occur. People with hepatitis C should get medical care that includes:

- An initial physical exam and medical history
- Liver function tests
- Viral load and genotype testing
- Vaccination for hepatitis A and B
- Routine health maintenance and evaluation for other problems such as diabetes, high blood pressure and other diseases.

To evaluate the health of your liver, your medical provider may want to conduct an ultrasound or biopsy of your liver.

Talk with your Provider About Treatment

Antiviral medication can be used to treat some people with hepatitis C but not everyone needs or can benefit from treatment. The decision to undergo treatment is an individual one that you would make in consultation with your medical provider.

Reduce Alcohol Consumption

One of the most important steps that all people living with hepatitis can take to protect their health is to reduce or eliminate alcohol consumption. Even small amounts of alcohol, 2-3 drinks per day, may speed up liver damage in people with hepatitis C. People living with hepatitis C should talk with their doctor before taking prescription or over the counter medications, herbal supplements or vitamins. It is important to avoid large amounts (2000 mg) of acetaminophen (Tylenol and other non-aspirin pain relievers) because they are toxic to the liver.

Learn About How to Maximize Your Health

Other important steps that can help improve health and quality of life for people living with HCV include: eating a healthy, balanced diet, drinking plenty of water, getting 8 hours of sleep each night, getting exercise, and taking steps to reduce stress.

Step by Step Guide: Living with Hepatitis C

If you are living with chronic hepatitis C there are a number of helpful websites and brochures to help you navigate through the process of learning your status to accessing care and treatment:

HCV Advocate

The HCV advocate is a national organization with expertise around HCV. Their website provides information on hepatitis C treatment options, articles, newsletters and a host of resources for people living with HCV.

<http://www.hcvadvocate.org/>

Specific materials of interest from HCV Advocate include:

First Steps for Living with HCV

Brochure prepared by the HCV Advocate. Offers suggestions for managing the early phases of living with an HCV diagnosis.

http://hcvadvocate.org/hepatitis/First_Steps.asp

Guide to Healthy Living with HCV

Brochure prepared by the HCV Advocate. Provides a guide for living with HCV.

http://hcvadvocate.org/hepatitis/factsheets_pdf/Healthy%20Living%20Guide_09.pdf

Hepatitis C Caring Ambassadors

The Hepatitis C Caring Ambassadors Program mission is to improve the lives of people living with hepatitis C through information and awareness.

<http://www.hepcchallenge.org/>

Hepatitis C Choices:

Hepatitis C Choices is a book available online to help people living with HCV become the best possible advocate for their own healthcare. It provides useful information to help you make treatment and lifestyle choices that are right for you.

<http://www.hepcchallenge.org/choices/disclaimer.htm>

Hep C Primer

Find answers to your most pressing Hep C and liver support questions. Award-winning site developed by a patient to help you learn the facts

<http://www.hepcprimer.com/>

Patient Assistance Programs

Patient assistance programs are run by pharmaceutical companies to provide free medications to people who cannot afford to buy their medicine. Pharmaceutical companies have a long-standing tradition of providing prescription medicines free of charge to physicians whose patients might not otherwise have access to necessary medicines. Pharmaceutical companies operate these programs, commonly referred to as patient assistance programs, voluntarily. Many drug manufacturers offer patient assistance programs, which can greatly decrease or entirely eliminate the costs of many medications.

RxAssist Directory of Patient Assistance Programs:

RxAssist offers a comprehensive database of these patient assistance programs, as well as practical tools, news, and articles so that health care professionals and patients can find the information they need. All in one place: www.rxassist.org

Partnership for Prescription Assistance

The Partnership for Prescription Assistance brings together America's pharmaceutical companies, doctors, other health care providers, patient advocacy organizations and community groups to help qualifying patients who lack prescription coverage get the medicines they need through the public or private program that's right for them. Many will get them free or nearly free. Among the organizations collaborating on this program are the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association, the Lupus Foundation of America, the NAACP, the National Alliance for Hispanic Health and the National Medical Association. To access the Partnership for Prescription Assistance by phone, you can call toll-free, 1-888-4PPA-NOW / 1-888-477-2669 www.pparx.org

Please note that the requirements for program eligibility vary. Some programs may be applied for directly by the patient, whereas other program applications must be initiated by the healthcare provider (physician, pharmacist or agency). Below are a few telephone numbers you can call to ask questions.

PRODUCT NAME	PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY AND CONTACT INFO	TYPE
Epivir HBV (lamuvidine)	GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals www.hepatitisbhelp.com www.gskforyou.com 866-PATIENT / 866-728-4368	Hepatitis B
Hepsera (adefovir dipivoxil)	Gilead Pharmaceuticals www.hepsera.com/reimbursement.aspx 800-226-2056	Hepatitis B
Baraclude (entecavir)	Bristol-Myers Squibb www.bmspaf.org 800-736-0003	Hepatitis B

PRODUCT NAME	PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY AND CONTACT INFO	TYPE
Tyzeka (telbivudine)	Idenix Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation www.idenix.com 877-8-TYZEKA / 877-889-9352	Hepatitis B
Pegasys (Peg Interferon alfa-2a) injection Pegasys/Copegus Combination (Peginterferon alfa-2a+Ribavirin)	Roche Pharmaceuticals http://www.rocheusa.com/programs/patientassist.asp 877-75ROCHE / 877-757-6243	Hepatitis B & C
Intron-A (Interferon alfa-2b recombinant) injection Rebetron (Ribavirin, capsules) Peg-Intron (Peg Interferon alfa-2b) powder for injection	Schering Pharmaceuticals www.hep-help.com/peg/application www.beincharge.com Commitment to Care 800-521-7157	Hepatitis C
RibaPak™ (ribavirin) Tablets	Three Rivers Pharmaceuticals www.3riverspharma.com/pat_riba.html RibaCare® 866-650-RIBA	Hepatitis C
Infergen (Interferon alfacon-1)	Valeant Pharmaceuticals Infergent Aspire Nursing and Reimbursement Support program www.infergen.com/5-Aspire/6-Reimbursement.html 888-MOVE-FWD / 888-668-3393	Hepatitis C

Useful Hepatitis Websites

National Organization and Resources

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CDC Viral Hepatitis home page provides links to hepatitis fact sheets, resource center, on-line training, reports and recommendations.

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/index.htm>

CDC Hepatitis Coordinator Website Portal

This website serves as a home page for AVHPCs with a list of AVHPCs, link to each state's hepatitis webpage, glossary, bibliography and a host of other resources.

http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/hepatitis/resource/coordinators_portal.htm

CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

This weekly report provides updated information on specific diseases as reported by state and territorial health departments. It is a good source for updated CDC recommendations, reports and other items of interest to the public health community.

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/?s_cid=mmwr_online

Immunization Action Coalition

Everything you ever wanted to know about immunization including vaccine information sheets, brochures, vaccine recommendation information and other related resources. You can access several important publications such as IAC Express, Hep Express and Needle Tips. Hepprograms.org is a useful catalogue of different hepatitis-based programs around the country.

<http://immunize.org/> and <http://www.hepprograms.org/hepexpress/>

American Liver Foundation

This website provides information on liver diseases, as well as advocacy for education, treatment and research funding.

<http://www.liverfoundation.org/>

National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD)

An important resource for information about hepatitis integration, legislative updates that impact viral hepatitis, advocacy issues and other important topics.

<http://nastad.org/Programs/viralhepatitis/>

National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable

The National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable is a coalition of public, private, and voluntary organizations dedicated to reducing the incidence of infection, morbidity, and mortality from viral hepatitis in the US through strategic planning, leadership, advocacy, and research.

<http://www.nvhr.org/>

Useful Hepatitis Websites

Hepatitis Central

This website is dedicated to providing in-depth and cutting edge information for Hepatitis C patients and their families, caregivers and health professionals.

www.hepatitis-central.com

The Liver Transplant Support Forum - National Institutes of Health

www.nih.gov

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

The VA is the largest single provider of medical care to people with hepatitis C in the United States and provides the highest quality, comprehensive care to Veterans.

www.hepatitis.va.gov

Living with Hepatitis C

HCV Advocate

This website provides information on hepatitis C treatment options, articles, newsletters and a host of resources for people living with HCV.

<http://www.hcvadvocate.org/>

Hepatitis C Caring Ambassadors

The Hepatitis C Caring Ambassadors Program mission is to improve the lives of people living with hepatitis C through information and awareness.

<http://www.hepcchallenge.org/>

Hep C Primer

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<http://www.hepcprimer.com/>

Hep C Vets

This website is provided by past and presents members of the United States Military with Hepatitis C (HCV) to assist fellow Retirees/Veterans / Active Military and Dependents with awareness to the Hepatitis C virus exposure methods during military service.

www.hcvets.com

Hep-C Alert

Hep-C Alert is a nonprofit organization established to raise awareness, provide health education, counseling, testing and linkage services to more than 30,000 people throughout the U.S.

www.hep-c-alert.org

Useful Hepatitis Websites

Hep C Connection

Hep C Connection is a hepatitis C-focused advocacy organization with a proven history of community education, patient support, and disease prevention strategies.

www.hepc-connection.org

HIV and Hepatitis C

Mountain Plains AIDS Education and Training Center

The AIDS Education and Training Center with materials and resources on HIV and Hepatitis co-infection.

<http://www.mpaetc.org/>

HIV and Hepatitis

This website provides information on HIV and viral hepatitis sponsored by pharmaceutical companies. The focus is on clinical issues related to HIV, viral hepatitis, and co-infection.

<http://www.hivandhepatitis.org/>

National AIDS Treatment and Advocacy Project

This website provides extensive information about HIV, HCV and HIV/HCV co-infection.

<http://natap.org/>

Hepatitis B

Asian Liver Center at Stanford

The Asian Liver Center at Stanford University is the first non-profit in the United States that addresses the high rate of hepatitis B and liver cancer in Asians and Asian Americans

www.liver.stanford.edu

Hepatitis B Foundation

The only national organization dedicated to finding a cure and improving the quality of life for those affected by hepatitis B worldwide.

www.hepb.org

Global Hepatitis

World Health Organization (WHO)

This website provides fact sheets, information about travel and epidemiological data about viral hepatitis around the world.

<http://www.who.int/topics/hepatitis/en/>

Useful Hepatitis Websites

Hepatitis Foundation International

This website educates the public and healthcare providers about viral hepatitis and its prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. Educational videos and other resources are available.

<http://www.hepfi.org/>

Clinical Information

Hepatitis Web Study

This website provides interactive, case-based modules related to the clinical care of persons with viral hepatitis.

<http://depts.washington.edu/hepstudy/>

American Gastroenterological Association

This is the website for the professional association of gastroenterologists and its purpose is to advance the science and practice of gastroenterology.

<http://www.gastro.org/wmspage.cfm?parm1=2>

American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases

AASLD is a nonprofit, member organization for physicians and others striving to prevent and cure diseases of the liver.

<https://www.aasld.org/eweb/StartPage.aspx>

Center Watch: Clinical Trials Listing Service

This website offers a state by state listing of clinical trials for viral hepatitis.

<http://www.centerwatch.com/patient/studies/cat79.html>

Hepatitis and Harm Reduction

Harm Reduction Coalition

The Harm Reduction Coalition is committed to reducing drug-related **harm** among individuals and communities by initiating and promoting **harm reduction** education, interventions, and community organizing.

<http://www.harmreduction.org/>

Harm Reduction Journal

Harm Reduction Journal is an Open Access, peer-reviewed, online journal whose focus is prevalent patterns of psychoactive drug use, the public policies meant to control them, and the search for effective methods of reducing the adverse medical, public health, and social consequences associated with both drugs and drug policies.

<http://www.harmreductionjournal.com/home>

Glossary of Important Terms

Abdomen – The portion of the body located between the chest and the pelvis. Contains the stomach, lower part of the esophagus, small and large intestines, liver, gallbladder, spleen, pancreas, and bladder.

Acetaminophen – A type of medication used to relieve pain and fever. An example is Tylenol.

Acute illness – Acute refers to the short-term, initial stage of infection.

Adipose tissues – Fatty tissues.

Albumin – A protein produced by the liver that circulates in the blood.

Alpha-fetoprotein (AFP) – A protein produced by cancerous liver cells.

Anemia – Condition in which there is a reduction in the number of circulating red blood cells, usually resulting in a decrease in the amount of oxygen in the blood.

Antibody – A molecule produced by the immune system in response to a foreign body such as a virus or bacteria. Antibodies circulate in the blood to protect against infection.

Antigen – A foreign substance that the body's immune system identifies as potentially harmful.

Ascites – Fluid accumulation in the abdomen.

Asymptomatic – Without symptoms or signs of illness.

Autoimmune – A condition in which the body produces antibodies against normal parts of the body to such an extent as to cause tissue injury.

Benign – Not recurrent or progressive.

Bile – A fluid that is stored in the gallbladder for release when needed. Bile is necessary for the digestion of fats – it dissolves fat into small globules (similar to the way that detergent lifts oil off greasy plates). Bile also assists in the absorption of fat-soluble vitamins (i.e., vitamins A, D, E, and K) and converts beta-carotene to vitamin A.

Bilirubin – A product of red blood cells.

Biopsy – The removal of a small piece of living tissue for examination under a microscope. Usually performed to establish a diagnosis.

Chemotherapy – Chemical agents that have a specific and toxic effect upon the disease-causing microorganism.

Cholesterol – A soft, waxy substance found in all parts of the body. It is made in the liver and is also found in animal and dairy products.

Chronic illness – An illness that lasts longer than six months.

Cirrhosis – Extensive scarring of the liver.

Decompensated cirrhosis – A condition in which the liver becomes so scarred that blood can no longer flow through it.

Encephalopathy – Disease of the brain. Symptoms include confusion, disorientation, and insomnia, and can progress to coma.

Endemic – A disease that occurs continuously in a particular population.

Epidemiology – Investigation of the causes of, and ways to control, diseases.

Esophagus – The tube that carries food from the mouth to the stomach.

Fibrous – Composed of or containing fibers.

Fulminant – Sudden onset, most severe.

Gastroenterologist – A doctor that specializes in the function and disorders of the esophagus, stomach, pancreas, intestines, and liver.

Glucose – A sugar formed during digestion.

Glycogen – A substance found in the liver and muscles that is easily converted to glucose for energy.

Hemodialysis – The process of filtering the accumulated waste products from the blood of a person whose kidneys are not functioning properly, using a kidney machine.

Hepatitis – Inflammation of the liver. It may be caused by a variety of agents, including viral infections, bacterial invasion, and physical or chemical agents. Symptoms include fever, jaundice, and, usually, an enlarged liver.

Hepatitis A – Formerly called infectious hepatitis, hepatitis A is caused by the hepatitis A virus (HAV). It is an acute infection and does not progress to chronic hepatitis or cirrhosis. Most patients recover completely within six to ten weeks. Hepatitis A is spread mainly via feces and contaminated food and water. A vaccine against the hepatitis A virus is available.

Hepatitis B – Formerly called serum hepatitis, it is caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV). About 10% of cases progress to chronic infection. It is transmitted through sexual contact with an infected individual, injection drug use, and other exposure to infected body fluids. A vaccine against the hepatitis B virus is available.

Hepatitis C – A form of hepatitis that was previously known as non-A, non-B hepatitis and is caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV). The Centers for Disease Control estimates 26,000 new cases each year, a marked decline in new infections since the virus was identified in 1988. There is no vaccine against hepatitis C virus.

Hepatitis D – Also called delta hepatitis, hepatitis D is caused by the hepatitis D virus (HDV). A person cannot be infected with HDV without current or simultaneous infection with hepatitis B virus. Hepatitis D infection is rare in the U.S. and occurs primarily in recipients of multiple blood transfusions, including patients with hemophilia or undergoing renal dialysis, and among those who share contaminated needles.

Hepatitis E – Also referred to as enterically transmitted non-A, non-B hepatitis, hepatitis E is caused by a waterborne virus (HEV). It is rare in the U.S. and occurs primarily in developing countries. Hepatitis E infection results in an acute infection much like hepatitis A. It does not cause chronic infection. It is spread by fecal contamination in water.

Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) – Liver cancer.

Hepatocytes – Liver cells.

Hepatologist – A doctor who specializes in the study and treatment of liver disease.

Immunoglobulin – One of a family of closely related though not identical proteins capable of acting as antibodies.

Immunology – The branch of medicine that focuses on the immune system, immunity, and allergy.

Jaundice – Yellowing of the skin and whites of the eyes.

Laparoscopic biopsy – A medical procedure performed when a tube (laparoscope) is inserted through an incision in the abdomen and a piece of tissue is removed.

Lipid – Component of fat.

Lipoproteins – A complex of lipids and proteins that carries lipids around the body.

Liver – The largest glandular organ in the body. It has many functions that include, but are not limited to the production of protein and cholesterol, the production of bile, the storage of sugar in the form of glycogen, and the breakdown of carbohydrates, fats, and proteins. The liver also breaks down and excretes many medications.

Malaise – Discomfort, uneasiness often indicates infection.

Nucleoside analogues – A class of HIV medications.

Pancreas – A long, irregularly shaped gland lying behind the stomach that secretes digestive enzymes and produces insulin.

Pathologist – A specialist in diagnosing the abnormal changes in tissues removed at operations and postmortem examinations.

Perinatal – Concerning the period beginning after the 28th week of pregnancy through 28 days following birth.

Perinatal Transmission – Transmission of an infectious disease from mother to infant. It can happen in the uterus, or during or after birth.

Peripheral edema – Fluid build up in the feet and ankles.

Phospholipid – A phosphorus-containing lipid found in cell membranes.

Polymerase inhibitors – A compound that stops an essential enzyme needed for viral replication.

Portal hypertension – High pressure in the liver, intestines, and spleen.

Prophylaxis – A type of treatment to prevent disease or stop it from spreading.

Protease inhibitor – A compound that breaks down proteins, inhibiting the replication of viruses such as HIV.

Prothrombin time (PT) – A measure of blood clotting.

Serologic testing – Blood test.

Transvenous biopsy – A procedure during which a tube is inserted into a vein in the neck, then a needle is put into the catheter to remove tissue samples.

Ultrasound – A test that uses a wand, which is placed on a body part such as the abdomen and moved back and forth to examine the shape, size, and appearance of the liver.

Variceal bleeding – Bleeding from blood vessels in the esophagus. This may occur in patients with cirrhosis.